

CITY OF REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION

MINUTES — March 30, 2005 Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Gary Smith, Vice Chair Ken Bechmann, Kris Colt, Glenn Eades, Peter McDonald

ABSENT: Julie Barnfather, Sue Chenault; youth advocate Morgan Hargraves

CITY STAFF: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Linda Gorremans, Parks Planning; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

AUDIENCE: Lori Snodgrass, Redmond Park Board Chairperson

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gary Smith called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Trails Commission (RTC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Redmond Trails Commission Minutes of February 23, 2005 were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 1, first paragraph: Change dates to "...since 1994 (five years on Trails Committee;...)

Motion for approval of February 23, 2005 RTC minutes as amended by:
Commissioner McDonald

Second by: Commissioner Bechmann

Motion carried: Unanimous 5-0

Commissioners discussed the efficiency of action items as listed in the minutes, and whether or not special attention should be called to them as

they come forward during meetings. Commissioners concurred to continue to highlight them in the minutes, audibly recognize them during the meetings, and (pending a volunteer) email the action item list to everyone the day following the meeting.

- ***Eades will record action items for this meeting (only) and email to all the next day following the meeting.***
- ***Bechmann, as well as Smith, will edit the initial draft minutes.***
- ***The recording secretary will send the initial draft minutes at the same time to Smith, Bechmann, and staff (Cox/Gorremans) for their edits.***

Per Commissioners' request, ***Staff will email them the most current roster of RTC.***

III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

IV. ITEMS OF INTEREST/HANDOUTS

A. Sammamish Valley Tourism & Recreation Map

The maps were produced as a joint effort by the cities of Redmond and Woodinville staff and Chambers of Commerce. The tourism maps, funded by a grant, prominently mention both cities' parks, larger trails, etc. Available at City Hall offices, Parks Planning office, both cities Chambers of Commerce, Redmond Town Center, etc.

B. *FOCUS* on Redmond

Publication handout. Cox noted the *Redmond Recreational Guide* won a WRPA award for production and content.

C. 116th Corridor Cross Section Handout

Cox confirmed that there will be a dropped-down soft surface trail—a greater separated trail—in the area of Northstar development along NE 116th. He noted a similar separation will occur on the York Bridge project.

D. Additional Handouts

- *Redmond Reporter* article on the BNSF, by Susan Koenig

- Rails to Trails magazine
- Mountains to Sound Greenway publication

E. Bridle Crest Trail Signage

Eades reported signs are up and look good along the Bridle Crest Trail—the trail is very well signed. Trail is in improved shape and is being maintained.

F. City Council Action on Central Park Master Plan

Cox reported the Central Park Master Plan was been adopted in March by City Council.

- Final conceptual sketch includes trail improvements, a restroom, shelter, and signage.
- The Plan attempts to relate to the river, enhancing the trail and inviting trail users into the municipal campus.
- A 9-phase plan: Phase I (funded) is City Hall, landscape, and parking (Phase 2-8 are not funded).
- An \$11 million project over a 20-year plan for all phases.

Commissioners asked whether or not the project provided trail user parking. Staff reported the parking garage would allow for 400+. There would be sections for employees, senior center, and visitors. Neither weekend-parking nor parking after 5:00 p.m. would be an issue.

The campus “landing” is intended for boat user access.

V. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS

A. Parks Ballot Measure Survey - Handout

Lori Snodgrass, Redmond Park Board (RPB) Chairperson, presented the outcome of the parks ballot measure survey. The City is looking to raise revenue primarily through a bond.

- 402 people were telephoned in the statistically valid survey.
- Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates (survey consultants) were listed as 85% solid in their work/predictions.
- General language was used for survey.
- 60% margin of those in favor of a bond, with 60% required for passage.

- Levy had a lower margin of support but because only a simple majority is required it had about as much chance as the park bond.
- Public support could become more solid with time and education.

The consultant's recommendation was to proceed with the bond, but drop the figure to \$10 million (an achievable figure based on the survey), and put it on the November 2006 ballot. The RPB will vote next week to submit to City Council a recommendation for a park bond for no more than \$10 million (or possibly a \$9.8 or \$9.6 million figure) for the November 2006 ballot. Parks & Human Services Committee will be informed as well.

Discussion regarding a bond:

- A bond passage would free up CIP funds to develop and expand some projects on the list, providing funds for certain acquisitions as well. Currently there are \$60 million in those projects.
- Most probably a transportation bond would also be on the November 2006 ballot.
- Parks Director has suggested a study session first with Park Board and Council to educate them with a broader picture.
- Possibly conduct another more focused survey after the first of the year, to get clarification on certain rankings from this survey.
- This survey generated a small sample within a small sample of the public who believed acquisition and development is "more fragile" and needs more attention.
- Public feels recreational needs would "always be taken care of" by the existing budget.
- Education process would explain what money is used for, but would not tie in to the ballot (keep it broad instead).
- Ballot costs: \$80,000 to put on regular ballot; \$100-\$180,000 to hold a special election.
- Council has not communicated a clear decision to the community regarding the BNSF right-of-way; therefore, it cannot be referenced in the ballot. Rather, CIP projects would be the focus.
- If the bond fails, then it would be 7-10 years before it could go on the ballot again.
- Consultants noted people tend to support something that affects them personally as opposed to a more global picture.
- No organized group is opposing the bond at this time. Parks, open space, and habitat are popular issues today.
- Bond language would address purposes broadly.

- The education component would speak about what has already been done with limited funds to develop the popular items (i.e., open space, habitat, parks, greenways, preservations).
- Bond money serves as a match for grants. Bond money can be doubled with grants, plus can receive interest on bond money.

RTC responded with support of the bond, voicing a desire to collectively present an open presentation/education to sell it to the public. Snodgrass clarified the order of events:

- Park Board would make a recommendation at their study session with Council. Council would probably act on the recommendation in June.
- RPB and RTC would recommend names they would like to invite to be on the “blue ribbon” committee. This committee would take the information and “sell it” to the public.
- Commissioners and staff would then step back for a time (approximately a year) while it is marketed to the public.

Snodgrass noted that no unused funds from previous bonds would be left over, nor any unfinished items from a previous bond.

Snodgrass invited a RTC representative to the Park Board’s study session with Council. ***She will inform Commissioners of the date and time.***

B. Neighborhood Reviews

1. Grass Lawn & Willows/Rose Hill Neighborhoods – Utility Corridors

Commissioners viewed maps showing the PSE north/south trail and Bridle Crest Trail that are within the Grass Lawn neighborhood. The three PSE parcels and the school district are also within the corridor. Cox noted the City of Bellevue appears to show a corridor going south to the 520 bikeway. He asked the Commission to discuss whether or not the trail still had merit, and if so, how would it be acquired. Smith did not believe the north/south PSE trail was viable. Other suggestions/comments:

- Look at properties adjacent to the trail for sale.
- Consider a strategy or take it off the map.
- Some segments are easier to do than others.
- Willows/Rose Hill could be easier to develop; more viable possibilities with PSE properties including trails already there.
- Staff will be asking Cities of Bellevue and Kirkland if/how they plan to go about acquisition, i.e., their strategy.

- If not doable/viable, take it off the map.
- Staff offered to talk to the school district and PSE to discuss what would be allowable through their property.
- Staff was open to direction either to explore the current alignment or another alignment.
- By Park Board's assessment of neighborhoods, it may lead staff to reprioritize the PIP, revise the trails map, or hire a consultant to determine a trail need.
- Rose Hill neighborhood was not in favor of a trail.
- Consider a strategy on a smaller scale, neighborhood by neighborhood, as to whether or not it could be done.
- Consider the east/west connection to see what sort of corridors could be developed to feed into the east/west corridors.
- Consider an alternate route (e.g., Willows Creek Park area).

Commissioners decided to ask staff to pursue more information before making a decision. ***Staff will develop more information by inquiring of cities, school, and neighborhoods, etc. regarding the PSE right-of-way north/south, with attention to east/west intersections, and report back at next meeting.***

C. Trail Projects Reports

1. Evans Creek Trail Phase I, Stage 2

King County bond money, grants, and donations have contributed funding to the Phase I of the Evans Creek Trail. Cox referenced a draft memo going to City Council on April 5, 2005 to ask for the first CIP money (capital investment dollars) to be added to the project.

- Two-thirds of Phase I Evans Trail is completed.
- Stage 2 of Phase I is the raised steel trail over wetlands. The bid came back at \$1.25 million (the City has \$700,000). Therefore, Parks will ask the City to reallocate \$744,214 for the Stage 2 project.
- PHSC has received the recommendation favorably.
- If funding is taken out of "land acquisition," then funds must be reimbursed in 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Commissioners concurred it should be done. It was suggested a Commissioner could give a brief statement to Council as "Items from the Audience" in support of the request for reallocation of funds.

Motion for approval to support the memo of request for the reallocation of funds to the Evans Creek Trail Phase I, Stage 2 project by: Commissioner Bechmann
Second by: Commissioner McDonald
Motion carried: 5-0 unanimous

McDonald will attend the City Council meeting and make a statement of RTC's support in favor of the funding reallocation.

2. Trail at Bear Creek Park

Gorremans explained the funding restrictions for the trail at Bear Creek Park. The paved trail costs \$380,000; separate soft surface trail costs \$90,000. The trail is funded by two grants: IAC and TEA-21; the TEA-21 will not fund the soft surface trail. Therefore, a 4-foot wide shoulder (2-feet on other side) would be built next to the paved and show Phase II with a separate soft surface to be built in the future.

- 30% drawings would show the soft surface trail, but would not show it in the construction drawings (because it is not funded).
- The trail is being moved out of the floodway as far as possible.
- Staff will bring the 30-40% design (Phase II) to show RTC next month.
- Trail will meet ADA standards with less than 8% slope.
- Permit matrix handout was reviewed.

D. Watershed Pipeline

Cox reported that the replacement of the existing 24" natural gas pipeline with a 36" pipeline within the Watershed Preserve pipeline right-of-way is being reviewed by the Tech Committee. Other issues:

- Construction would be staged inside the Preserve; construction access would impact the Preserve also.
- A use agreement outside of the right-of-way, and possibly other permits (e.g., clearing and grading), would be required.
- Trees would be removed.
- Construction could require closing of the north/south trail. ***(Staff will confirm next month.)***
- A City Council executive session (not a public meeting) will be held April 5 to discuss the construction.
- Redmond Town Center will hold a public meeting on April 12.

Staff will email the announcement as to time of the citizen meeting at Redmond Town Center regarding the construction and possible trail closing.

E. Joint Bike/Ped Meeting

Staff asked whether or not Commissioners would like to hold a joint meeting with the PBAC (Pedestrian-Bicycle Advisory Committee). Commissioners concurred only to meet when a topic of mutual interest could be discussed.

Reference was made to the 10 possible neighborhood pedestrian trail connections requested by Council. ***Cox will identify a list of 10 possible trail connections to present to Council that may also affect the PBAC.***

F. Trail Commissioner Vacancy

Staff reported the position has not been advertised as yet.

G. National Trails Day – Saturday, June 4

Gorremans confirmed that Commissioners chose to celebrate National Trails Day using the venue of the newly constructed Evans Creek trail near Perrigo Community Park. She reported the following:

- Mayor is available.
- Picnic shelter is not available.
- Event activity not advisable in the afternoon due to field use.
- Provide a ribbon cutting ceremony for the trail.
- Attendees can walk from 95th Street past Perrigo Community Park, and south to where the trail stops (and possibly down the railroad corridor).

Commissioners decided to man a table (with canopy) for an hour, starting at either 9:30 or 10:00 a.m., pending confirmation of the Mayor's schedule.

- Staff to provide a National Trails Day banner.
- Provide water, handouts, and trail walking to participants.
- Invite Mayor, Hopkins, City Council, RPB, adjacent neighbors, PBAC, contractor, staff, and possibly private parties who partnered in the trail construction.
- Suggested methods of advertising the event:
 - Issue a press release
 - RCTV

- Ask Sarah Koenig, *Redmond Reporter*, to write an article on the trail.

Staff will report back next month in response to the above requests.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Smith at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

<p>Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.</p>

**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:
Wednesday, April 27, 2005
Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center
7:00 p.m.**